

PASTOR GENERAL'S REPORT

TO THE MINISTRY OF THE
WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD



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FROM MINISTERIAL SERVICES

International News

Canadian Update We normally experience a bit of a lull in finances just before the Spring feast days--sure didn't happen this year! God's people responded in a very generous way to Mr. Armstrong's letter mailed out mid-February. As mentioned earlier, that letter pushed February figures to a 29% increase in income and kept right on going. March is closed now and shows a 41.4% increase over last year. The year-to-date increase now stands at 27.7% over 1980. All indicators show that Mr. Armstrong's even stronger letter of mid-March will make April a record-breaking month!

Plans are underway to immediately plow these funds into increased media coverage. Mr. Hulme phoned this week to relate he has firmed up daily radio for Newfoundland and television coverage in the Hailfax, Regina and Winnipeg market area. We have needed better coverage in these areas for some time and we anxiously await his return from additional points as he works his way back home.

Mr. Adair, now getting "settled in" as the new Canadian director, completed meetings with Mr. Neff and Mr. Tkach several weeks ago in Pasadena. He announced an agreement reached pertaining to our financial assistance to another area. The Canadian brethren will be pleased to know Canada will once again be underwriting the Work in Scandinavia with \$70,000 assistance in 1981. This adds to assistance already approved and implemented in the amount of: Philippines \$90,000; France \$50,000; Black Africa \$10,000.

Appreciation for the Refresher Program

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

My wife and I would like to express our most sincere thanks and deep appreciation for having had the opportunity of attending the ninth session of the Ministerial Refresher Program.

Beyond a shadow of a doubt, God is using you Mr. Armstrong to put His Church back on the track. The instructions given to us by God's ministers was top spiritual food, and we certainly want to use it in feeding the flock God has put in our care here in the Caribbean.

Special thanks to Mr. Joseph Tkach, Mr. Dean Blackwell, Mr. Leroy Neff, Dr. Hoeh and all others who took the time and effort to teach us God's truth the way you would want it.

Thanks also to Mr. Carlton Green and his staff who prepared those excellent meals for us. As a result, we have returned to Barbados somewhat heavier than when we left.

Once again, thank you. We look forward to attending another Ministerial Refresher Program sometime in the future, and we wish to assure you of our loyal support and service to God's Work during the months ahead!

Carlos and Shirley Nieto

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Both my wife and I wish to express our gratitude for being able to attend the Refresher Program and being able to live on campus for the first time.

We always knew the campus was beautiful, but on return it seemed to be even more so. But especially evident to us was the growth. We saw growth in both the College as an institution and the individuals and students we met. And that was very uplifting to behold.

The program itself we felt was excellent. The material covered was what we needed and was delivered by people who believe in the purpose of this Work and who exemplify the concept of service. Our sincere thanks for the opportunity to attend.

D'Arcy and Yvonne Watson

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thank you for making it possible for us to come to Pasadena on the ninth Refresher Program. We appreciate all of the effort put forth by your staff and everyone concerned with making our stay profitable and enjoyable.

The classes cleared up a lot of ideas and opinions from various past administrations. It's a good feeling to know we're all speaking the same things. It was a tremendous blessing to be taught by the men closest to Mr. Herbert Armstrong, especially for those of us who have never had the opportunity to be around Mr. Armstrong personally.

We appreciate the time you took from your schedule to talk with us about our transfer and the consideration you've shown to us. Thank you again for everything. It was a superb three weeks!!

Tim and Mary Ann Snyder

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Thanks for your part in coordinating and teaching the ninth Refresher Program. Karen and I appreciated the obvious way everyone supported and reflected Mr. Armstrong. While we would have loved to have had him in person, in no way did we ever feel cut off from him or his direction.

Someone once said that all of the talented men have now gone from the top jobs in the Work. That's hard to believe in the aftermath of spending three weeks in Pasadena. One thing is certain--the men at the top are converted.

We are grateful for the time you took to visit with us a couple of times. Karen has mentioned you many times since we have been mar-

ried; you were a great help to her when she was new in the Pasadena area. She has known you better than I, though now I, too, have been able to see first hand why God is using you to help hold up Mr. Armstrong's hands.

It helped our perspective to glimpse just a little of the incredible number of demands on your time and your spirit. We realize how we need to be praying for God's continued blessing and inspiration.

There is no gainsaying that the whole concept of the Refresher Program comes from God and is a service worth its weight in gold. Thanks very much for your part in it; we look forward to the next time!

Cecil and Karen Maranville

Dear Mr. Tkach:

Now that Gwen and I are back home, we wanted to once again express our thanks for the Refresher Program and the opportunity for us to be in attendance at the ninth session.

We really appreciated the openness and basic approach that all of our instructors showed throughout the three weeks. And now that we are beginning to review the more than 200 pages of notes taken during the refresher, it seems we've gotten one years' worth in three weeks.

We would also like to comment on the beauty of the campus. It looked better than we could remember during all our years around the college. The students also showed a tremendous amount of friendliness, openness, and talent which stood in stark contrast to the student body of 1977-78 (while we were in on sabbatical).

When we first received the list of the ministers scheduled for the ninth session, we realized we knew very few of those scheduled. However, after the three weeks we found we had developed a number of new friendships as well as renewing the old. We felt this part of the refresher often goes unmentioned in the comments, but certainly it is an inspiring part of the refresher. We look forward to meeting and getting to know more of God's ministry at our next refresher. Thank you again for the opportunity and for the time you have put into this valuable program for God's ministry.

Dave and Gwen Register

Largest Holy Day Offering to Date

This note is to let you know that we had a record offering for the first day of Unleavened Bread. It was a 33% increase over last year! On a per-person basis, it was the largest holyday offering we have had to date in the area. Considering the economic problems Elkhart and Michigan City have been suffering from, the offering is incredible. Perhaps one of the main reasons for the response was the film by Mr. Armstrong that was shown during the morning services. The brethren were moved by Mr. Armstrong's message and even applauded at the end. There is no doubt that God is working with and blessing His Work.

Rand Millich

Inspiring Letters Were a Family Project

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This afternoon we each decided to write you a letter as a Sabbath afternoon family project. Marcel's and Danny's letters are enclosed with this one.

We came into the Church in 1968 at Edmonton, Alberta, at a time when that church was definitely still right on track under Mr. Richard Pinelli's leadership. Now that you have turned the Church around and put it on track once again, things are like the "good old days." It is really a blessing to know black from white once again....

We have been responding to your admonitions to increase our prayer, fasting, and study. As a result, we are closer to God. This has already produced some outstanding results.

We do know who you are. We do pray daily for you. Keep on going until the work is done--the sooner the better. We will stick with you to the end and we look forward to working in your "department" in the headquarters government of the world tomorrow.

Paul & Bernice Schnee (No. Battleford, Sask., Canada)

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

Thanks a lot for sending me the YOUTH 81 magazine! I think that a magazine for us teenagers is wonderful. I have read both of them several times through.

It has just been proved to me that God does care about a teenager and his wants. I have started my first third tithe year and at the beginning I was quite despondent. You see, I was saving to buy a motorcycle and as far as I could see, paying three tenths of my money to God would never in a million years let me buy a bike. But I decided to pay third tithe anyway. Two weeks ago our family was able to buy not one, but TWO new motorcycles. And just today we bought a beautiful trailer, with plenty of room for our bikes for one third of what we had expected to pay. God is truly a generous God!

I know that you are truly God's apostle. I am determined to stick it out and remain with God's Church. I want to be in God's Kingdom and if I follow you, I'm sure to get there. I pray that you will be able to keep up with the tremendous workload you have. I am 100% behind you in everything you do! Keep it up! You are doing great!

Marcel Schnee

P.S. I am 14 years old and I am anxiously waiting for the Y.E.S. courses.

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

I wrote this letter but Dad will type it so you can read it easier--he isn't a very good typer though.

Thank you for sending my brother Marcel the YOUTH 81 magazine because I read it. We are in third tithe year and are getting lots of bless-

ings. We got two motorbikes. I can hardly wait to get into the Kingdom because then I can be a spirit being. I have learned that God cares for little kids too. My school put on a musical called "The Trial of Alice in Wonderland." They changed the play from Thursday and Friday nights to Wednesday and Thursday nights so that I could be in it. I was the Mad Hatter. God is really nice to me.

Keep on doing God's Work.

Danny Schnee

--JOE TKACH, MINISTERIAL SERVICES

CHANCELLOR TO GIVE ADDRESS AT MAY 22 GRADUATION EXERCISES

Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong again spoke at the Forum yesterday, April 28. In his address, he gave the third installment on the history of Ambassador College, relating some of the trials of young Ambassador. A number of employees and the ministers attending the Ministerial Refresher Program also were in attendance.

Last night the second group of about 20 seniors were in the home of the Chancellor of Ambassador College. The third and final group are invited to Mr. Armstrong's home on this coming Thursday.

Mr. Armstrong leaves for Australia and other places next week. He will be gone about two weeks, and is scheduled to return to Pasadena on Tuesday, May 19th. Graduation exercises have been rescheduled for Friday, May 22nd. This should give Mr. Armstrong sufficient time to rest up after his arduous two-week tour before speaking at commencement. We are all looking forward to hearing him give the commencement address this year. I have been told that his last address at commencement was given in 1976.

I also wish to take this opportunity to cordially invite all of you ministers who are within driving distance of Pasadena to attend the graduation exercises on Friday, May 22nd.

The tenth group of ministers is now here in Pasadena attending the Ministerial Refresher Program. It is always good to see each new group arrive, and to have various opportunities during their three-week stay here in Pasadena to get to visit with them.

See you at the commencement exercises--God willing.

--Raymond F. McNair, Deputy Chancellor

ON THE WORLD SCENE

ARMS POUR INTO UNSTABLE MIDDLE EAST For now, President Reagan has decided to delay the sale of ultra-sophisticated AWACS radar planes to Saudi Arabia. He knows he does not have Congressional support for the sale at this time and does not want to risk a major foreign policy setback. The President will certainly wait until the outcome of the Israeli elections scheduled for June 30.

The expected winner of the elections, Shimon Peres, is alarmed at the escalating arms buildup surrounding his country, AWACS or no AWACS. Earlier this year, Peres visited the heads of government of several European nations. Upon his return, notes the editor of Britain & Israel, Terence Prittie, Peres expressed the belief that the time factor is crucially important for the Middle East and that the next five to ten years will be critical for war or peace in the stormy region.

Peres envisioned, said Prittie, "four sources of future pressure in the Middle East--inter-Arab disputes, Soviet designs on the region, Islamic fanaticism and the spread of nuclear weapons."

While there have been four Israeli-Arab conflicts (1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973), the list of wars among the Arabs themselves is far longer. Rivalries between "radical" states and moderates threaten to worsen.

Right now, there is the prospect of renewed fighting between radical Soviet-supplied South Yemen and pro-west Oman along the southern border of Saudi Arabia. And for the past week fighting has dangerously escalated in Lebanon between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization on one side, and "Christian" forces, backed by Israel, on the other.

Soviet meddling in the region is by far the biggest danger. This is the reason the Israelis are adamant against the establishment of a PLO-run Palestinian state in the West Bank. A PLO state would be backed to the hilt by Moscow as well as troublemaker Syria. "A PLO state," writes Prittie, "would indeed be a Trojan Horse of the most dangerous kind and, other things apart, a base for terrorist incursions into Israel."

The Israelis are dumbfounded as to the Common Market's approach toward the Middle East, specifically its recommendation that the PLO be "brought into the peace process." This is incomprehensible to Israel, indicating only two things: 1) the Europeans are cringing before the oil-rich Arab states; and 2) many Europeans, especially the French, are plainly un-sympathetic, even hostile, towards Israel.

The Israelis point out that the PLO:

1. Rejects United Nations resolutions 242 and 338, the U.N. basis for peace in the Middle East; including the call for the "respect for and acknowledgment of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the area and their right to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force." That includes Israel.
2. Rejects the Camp David agreements.
3. Has not modified its charter, the Palestine National Covenant, which calls repeatedly for the abolition of Israel as a state and the establishment of a united Arab-controlled Palestine incorporating the whole of Israel today.
4. Defends the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.
5. Generally supports Libya's madman, Colonel Qaddafi.

6. Supports and contributes to worldwide terrorism. (The three pillars of world terrorism are the Soviet Union, Cuba, and the PLO.)

7. Declares its total hatred of and opposition to the United States.

What, say the Israelis, is there to talk about between Europe and the PLO? There can be no "instant" or "quick fix" solutions to the Mideast dilemma, says Jerusalem. There must first be carefully thought-out "approaches" to solutions. (As Mr. Armstrong has pointed out, the Egyptians and Israelis tried a new "give" approach as the basis of their relationship.)

Meanwhile, the "old approach"--preparing for war--is being fed by enormous shipments of arms, and not just by the Soviet Union and the United States. The Europeans are trafficking in arms to the hilt. Iraq is the biggest beneficiary--a country that launched a war upon its neighbor, Iran.

France has arms deals planned or in the works with Arab states worth a staggering total of \$22 billion. Specifically, Paris is supplying Iraq with \$3 billion of arms and electronics. Italy has also signed an arms deal with Iraq worth \$2 billion. Both France and Italy are dependent upon Iraq oil shipments. Notes Middle East analyst Prittie:

"The abject readiness of Western countries to supply a blatantly obvious aggressor in time of war is merely the most deplorable feature of the situation....Arms-supply to the Middle East has become a vicious circle spiralling like a tornado. Arms supplied to 'extreme' regimes like Iraq's makes it necessary to send yet more arms to the 'moderate' Arab states like Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Then Israel, inevitably, asks for more arms as huge arsenals are built up opposite all of its frontiers. That leads, once more, to fresh demands for arms from oil-rich states which are unable to find sufficient productive uses for their huge financial surpluses. Even the little Gulf Emirates are now arming to the teeth....What, then, lies ahead? A worsening situation, for sure, with nuclear weapons quite possibly next on the list."

Israel is believed to have begun stockpiling nuclear weapons as early as 1974. Iraq, thanks to reactors and nuclear laboratories supplied by the French and the Italians, may be making nuclear weapons now. Pakistan is only months away from testing its "device." Thus, the Mideast arms race is turning nuclear. Business Week reported a year ago in its April 14, 1980 issue:

"1980 looks as if it will become the year when the arms race in the Middle East turns openly nuclear. Although all nations in the area publicly disavow any intention to be the first to produce atomic weapons, the potential of a number of them to do so is picking up speed. Evidence is mounting, too, that some oil producers have begun to exact what Iraqi President Saddam Hussein calls 'a strategic price'--transfer of Western nuclear know-how--in exchange for their own key strategic commodity. On the fringes of the region, moreover, Pakistan's military government appears little more than a year to 18 months from achieving the capacity to detonate the Islamic world's first nuclear test device."

--Gene H. Hogberg, News Bureau